IN THE CLAIMS:

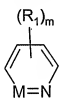
Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating a trichomoniasis infection in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of Formula (I):

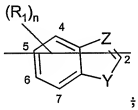
$$A_1\text{-}Ar_1\text{-}L\text{-}Ar_2\text{-}A_2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein:

$Ar_1$ is ~~and $Ar_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of~~:

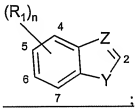



and




;

$Ar_2$ is:




;

wherein:

M, ~~N and Z~~ and N are each ~~independently selected from the group consisting of N and~~ CH;

Z is N;

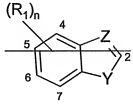
Y is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ $NR_3$, ~~O, S, Se, and Te,~~ wherein $R_3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

~~each~~ m is ~~independently~~ an integer from 0 to 2;

~~each~~ n is ~~independently~~ an integer from 0 to 3;

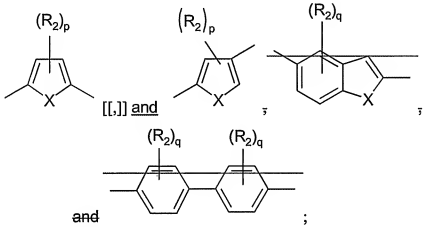
each $R_1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl; and

wherein ~~if $Ar_1$ or $Ar_2$ is:~~



~~$Ar_1$ or~~ $Ar_2$ is attached to L through a bond at carbon 2;

L is selected from the group consisting of:



[[,]] and



~~and~~ ;

wherein:

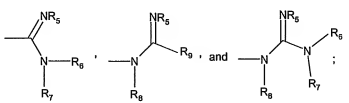
p is an integer from 0 to 2;

~~each q is independently an integer from 0 to 4;~~

X is ~~selected from the group consisting of O, S, $NR_4$, Se, and Te, wherein $R_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;~~

each $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyoxyl; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



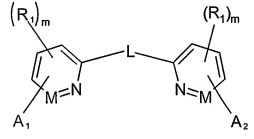
wherein:

$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) comprises a compound of Formula (II):




(II)

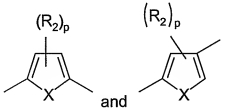
wherein:

each M and N is independently selected from the group consisting of N and CH;

each m is independently an integer from 0 to 2;

each $R_1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

L is selected from the group consisting of:




and

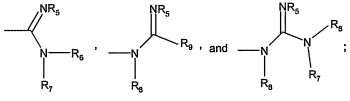
wherein:

p is an integer from 0 to 2;

each $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, $NR_4$, Se, and Te, wherein $R_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

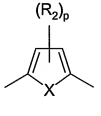
$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

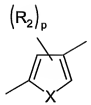
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein M and N are each CH.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein L comprises:



5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein L comprises:

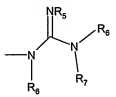


6. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein X is oxygen.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein $A_1$ and $A_2$ each comprise:

and wherein $R_6$ and $R_7$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, and cycloalkyl; and $R_5$ is selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxyl, and alkoxyl.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein $A_1$ and $A_2$ each comprise:



and wherein $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, and $R_8$ are each H.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 2, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2,5-Bis(4-amidinophenyl)furan;

2,5-Bis[4-(*O*-methyloxyamidino)phenyl]furan;

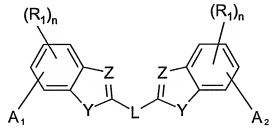
2,5-Bis[4-(*N*-isopropylamidino)phenyl]furan;

2,5-Bis[4-(*N*-cyclohexylamidino)phenyl]furan;

2,5-Bis(4-guanidinophenyl)furan; and

3,5-Bis(4-amidinophenyl)furan.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) comprises a compound of Formula (III):




(III)

wherein:

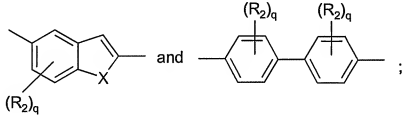
Y is selected from the group consisting of $NR_3$, O, S, Se, and Te, wherein $R_3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

Z is selected from the group consisting of CH and N;

each n is independently an integer from 0 to 3;

each $R_1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

L is selected from the group consisting of:




;

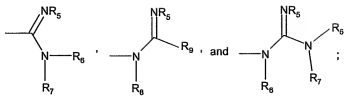
wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, $NR_4$, Se, and Te, wherein $R_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

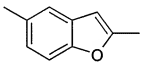
$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

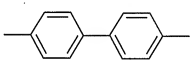
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein Y is NH and Z is N.

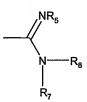
12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein L comprises:



13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein L comprises:



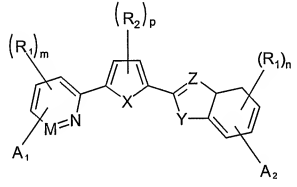
14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein each $A_1$ and $A_2$ comprise



and wherein $R_6$ and $R_7$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, and cycloalkyl; and $R_5$ is selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxyl, and alkoxyl.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-Bis{2-[(4-amidino)benzimidazoyl]}biphenyl and 2,5-Bis{2-[5-(*N*-isopropylamidino)benzimidazoyl]}benzo[b]furan.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) ~~comprises~~ is a compound of Formula (IV):




(IV)

wherein:

M, ~~N and Z~~ and N are each ~~independently selected from the group consisting of N and~~ CH;

Z is N;

Y is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ $NR_3$, ~~O, S, Se, and Te~~, wherein $R_3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

m is an integer from 0 to 2;

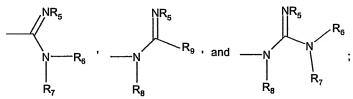
n is an integer from 0 to 3;

p is an integer from 0 to 2;

each $R_1$ and $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

X is ~~selected from the group consisting of O, S, $NR_4$, Se, and Te, wherein $R_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl~~; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

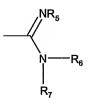
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein Y is NH ~~and Z is N~~.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein $A_1$ and $A_2$ <u>are</u> each ~~comprise~~:



wherein $R_5$, $R_6$ and $R_7$ are each H.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the compound is 2-(4-Amidinophenyl)-5-[2-(5-amidinobenzimidazoyl)]thiophene.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the trichomoniasis infection is caused by the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) ~~comprises~~ is a prodrug.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~comprises~~ is a hydrochloride salt.

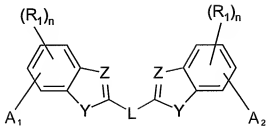
26. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 1, comprising administering the compound of Formula (I) orally in one of a solid or a liquid formulation.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 1, comprising administering the compound in a liposomal formulation.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 1, comprising administering the compound of Formula (I) to prevent or reduce the incidence of recurrence of the *T. vaginalis* infection.

30. (Withdrawn) A compound of Formula (III):




(III)

wherein:

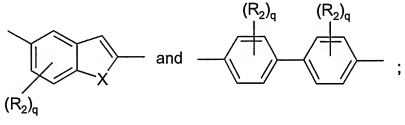
Y is selected from the group consisting of $NR_3$, O, S, Se, and Te, wherein $R_3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

Z is selected from the group consisting of CH and N;

each n is independently an integer from 0 to 3;

each $R_1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

L is selected from the group consisting of:




;

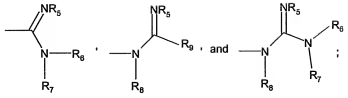
wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, $NR_4$, Se, and Te, wherein $R_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

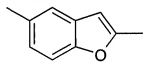
$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

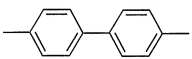
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 30, wherein Z is N and Y is NH.

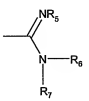
32. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 30, wherein L comprises:



33. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 30, wherein L comprises:



34. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 30 wherein $A_1$ and $A_2$ each comprise:



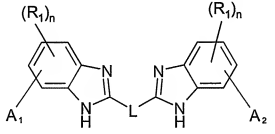
wherein $R_6$ and $R_7$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl and cycloalkyl; and $R_5$ is selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxyl, and alkoxyl.

35. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 30, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-Bis{2-[(4-amidino)benzimidazoyl]}biphenyl, 2,5-Bis{2-[5-(*N*-isopropylamidino)benzimidazoyl]}benzo[b]furan, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

36. (Withdrawn) A compound of Claim 30, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

37. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:
(a) a compound of Formula (III); and
(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a compound of Formula (V):



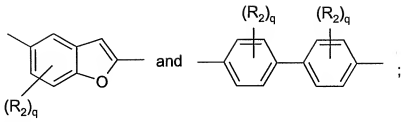

(V)

wherein:

each n is independently an integer from 0 to 3;

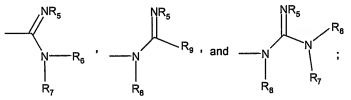
each $R_1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl;

L is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each q is independently an integer from 0 to 4 and each $R_2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, halo, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyl, and aralkyloxyl; and

$A_1$ and $A_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

$R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$, and $R_9$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, acyloxyl, alkylaminoalkyl, and alkoxycarbonyl; or

$R_5$ and $R_6$ together represent a $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkyl, $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ hydroxyalkyl, or $C_2$ to $C_{10}$ alkylene;

the method comprising refluxing a mixture of a dialdehyde, two molar equivalents of a diamine and two molar equivalents of an aromatizing reagent in a polar, protic solvent to form a compound of Formula (V).

39. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, wherein the dialdehyde is selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-diformyl-1,1'-biphenyl and benzo[b]furan-2,5-dicarboxaldehyde.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, wherein the diamine is selected

from the group consisting of 4-amidino-1,2-phenylenediamine and 4-*N*-isopropylamidino-1,2-phenylenediamine.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, wherein the aromatizing reagent comprises 1,4-benzoquinone.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, wherein the polar, protic solvent comprises ethanol.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, comprising:

(a) dissolving the compound of Formula (V) in a solvent to form a reaction mixture; and

(b) treating the reaction mixture with a solvent saturated with HCl to form a hydrochloride salt of the compound of Formula (V).